

Deep Creek/Anchor River Off-Road-Vehicle Trails Assessment Open Houses

ADNR and ADF&G solicited public comments through a series of open houses on the Kenai Peninsula. Information gathered at these meetings helped ADNR and ADF&G evaluate ORV trails in the project area, and identify river and wetland crossings associated with those trails. ADNR and ADF&G held the open houses in May of 2004 at the following locations:

- Soldotna, Tuesday May 4th, 4-8 PM @ Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Chambers
- Ninilchik, Wednesday May 5th, 4-8 PM @ Ninilchik Fair Grounds Community Hall
- Homer, Wednesday May 12th, 5-9 PM @ Homer High School
- Anchor Point, Wednesday May 19th 6-8 PM @ Chapman Elementary School
- Anchorage, Tuesday May 25th, 6-8 PM @ Central Middle School

Soldotna Meeting



Ninilchik Meeting



The Soldotna and Ninilchik open houses had low attendance, with only a dozen interested individuals at each, mostly snowmobile club members. The Anchorage, Homer and Anchor Point meetings were well attended by a broad range of stakeholders and a good cross-section of the Kenai Peninsula population was represented. Attendees offered valuable information regarding favored trails, heavily used trails, and perceived needs to improve those trails. The primary stakeholders' interest at all five meetings was land status issues, followed by management issues. Stakeholders also identified and prioritized access concerns, and established preliminary estimates of trail usage. As a result, seven trails in need of upgrades and several stream crossings in need of a bridge were identified in the project area.

Based on information gathered at the open houses, ADNR and ADF&G selected four trails to evaluate: Ninilchik Dome Trail, North Fork Trail, Watermelon Trail, and the 126 Trail. The 126 Trail lies outside the project area and although it seems to be an important trail in the area, ADNR could not secure the proper permissions from the dominant landowner to survey the trail.